

MINUTES

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS INVENTORY & MONITORING NETWORK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Conference Call

9:00-10:00am MT, June 26, 2006

Members Participating:

Dan Licht (lead) – Network I&M Coordinator
Bob Manasek – Agate Fossils Beds NM
Brian Kenner – Badlands NP
Jim Cheatham – Devils Tower NM
Andy Banta – Fort Union Trading Post NHS
Rene Ohms – Jewel Cave NM
Kasha Hansen (acting) - Knife River Indian Villages NHS
Wayne Werkmeister – Missouri NRR
Kristi Hajny – Niobrara NSR
Bob Manasek – Scotts Bluff NM
Laurie Richardson – Theodore Roosevelt NP
Dan Roddy (acting) – Wind Cave NP
Chad Prosser – Northern Great Plains EPMT

Members Absent:

Tammy Benson – Fort Laramie NHS
Eric Nelson – Mt. Rushmore NMEM
Cody Wienk – Northern Great Plains Fire Effects
Carmen Thomson –Regional I&M Coordinator

Also in Attendance:

Todd Trapp – Agate Fossil Beds NM
Tyler Cole – Missouri NRR/Niobrara NSR

Conference Call Purpose and Background

The purpose of the call was to update everyone on the I&M Program. Agenda items were: Phase II draft, program hires, FY07 budget, and technical assistance to parks. Emails in regards to the call were sent out on 6/5/2006, 6/15/2006, and 6/26/2006.

Call Minutes

Licht gave an overview of the Phase II draft, saying that it included new information, specifically; the Vital Signs the Network would like to monitor. He said the list of Vital Signs could change prior to submission of the final plan. He also said that the current

draft of the monitoring plan had been reduced in size to meet Washington guidance, with some material now being moved to the appendices. He said that he received comments from the Missouri NRR and Scotts Bluff NM. Manasek said he would coordinate with Todd Trapp on Agate Fossil Bed NM comments. Licht asked to have all comments by June 30.

Licht said that the Network Board had decided to begin the process of advertising for a Permanent GS-5 Administrative position; however, filling the vacancy would be contingent on receiving full funding in FY07. Licht asked if he should take a similar approach with recruiting a Plant Ecologist and an Aquatic Ecologist, i.e., begin the paperwork this summer. Several members responded yes and no one disagreed. Banta said he agreed with the approach, but warned that the Region may not want to recruit the positions prior to the Network having received adequate funding. Licht said that Tim Schumacher was now on board as a Computer Assistant under a STEP authority and would be working on database design.

Licht said that full funding for the Network was still in the FY07 budget; however, that had been the case in past years only to have the funding pulled at the 11th hour. He said that he would prepare for full funding in FY07, e.g., by looking at large capital equipment purchases the Network might want to make (e.g., automated water monitoring stations, cave climate monitoring equipment). Kenner said he should talk to the Great Lakes Network and the Midwest Region about water monitoring equipment.

Licht offered I&M Program assistance to parks in need of additional people for field work. He said the program was currently assisting Badlands NP with swift fox monitoring and would be monitoring goshawks at Mt. Rushmore NM.

Cole said that the Niobrara NSR was re-evaluating their proposed Vital Signs (e.g., maybe including fish monitoring) and that they would be contacting the I&M Program shortly.

Actions Items

Licht asked all parks to get comments back to him on Phase II by June 30.

Followup

Wind Cave NP had actually submitted comments prior to the call, i.e., on 6/19/2006. Devils Tower NM submitted their comments on 6/26/2006.

Drafted by: Dan Licht
Drafted on: 6/26/2006

Finalized by: Dan Licht
Finalized on: 7/12/2006